

HRIC  
Executive Committee  
2/14/05

NOTES

1) Youth Program Competitive Grant - Pat McDonald and Tom Douse provided copies of the draft summer youth program RFP, and discussed DET's plan for the summer program. HRIC Executive Committee members participating in this discussion from the HRIC Executive Committee were Rick Palmisano, Jerry Brown, Tom Leever, Val Vincent. Pat explained the changing priorities of the Department of Labor regarding the youth to be targeted which are increasingly youth with multiple barriers to education and employment, and pointed out that this places different demands on the organizations applying for these funds. The most significant topic of discussion was the proposal by DET to offer multiple smaller projects of up to \$50,000 each, not to exceed a total of \$150,000 instead of a single Statewide contract. There is a Federal requirement that these funds be made available through a competitive bidding process, and the State WIB is designated as the entity that offers these funds. Chip pointed out that the State has funded a single project through the Youth Conservation Corps for many years, both through a direct grant and through a competitive process as Federal requirements have dictated. He also explained that Vermont has improved its performance on youth programs and met or exceeded the Federal youth goals for the year that ended June 30, 2004. Several members questioned the benefits of limiting the RFP to smaller grants, since it would make it more difficult for an organization that could provide a single statewide project which may be the most efficient use of limited resources. Tom Leever invited public comment, and Tom Hark of the YCC briefly described the long history his organization has had with DET's summer youth programs, the successes they have achieved together and the importance of the WIA program to YCC's mission. After some discussion of the possibilities it was agreed that while there might be some smaller projects that could be successful, we should not preclude the possibility of funding a single larger project as has been done in the past. On a motion by Jerry Brown, it was agreed unanimously to alter the RFP to allow for a single project for the full \$150,000 as well as allowing for applications for smaller projects. Tom asked that the RFP be altered to reflect this change, that a draft be circulated to the Executive Committee for review before it is issued, and that the HRIC be represented on the grant review committee. (The RFP was subsequently reviewed by the Exec. Committee, several changes and clarifications were made and the RFP was placed on the DET website during the week of February 21.

2) Next Steps on the Workforce Challenge - The Committee reviewed the Challenge Statement and the Fact Sheet that is intended to highlight the three primary factors driving the workforce problems that the State faces. Several changes and edits were suggested and will be incorporated by Chip. The Committee then moved on to a discussion of the strategies for rolling it out. At the January Council meeting an exhaustive list of audiences was developed and the Committee decided to prioritize on the following; the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Legislature, the board of the Vermont Business Roundtable, the board of the State Chamber of Commerce, the Board of the Lake Champlain Chamber, and through the WIBs; local Chambers and RDC Boards. At these meetings we will gather their reactions and suggestions for actions to address these items, then develop a list of priorities that could be shared and further developed at a conference organized for this purpose, and that will be the basis of a new HRIC action plan. Chip will make contact with these organizations and schedule an opportunity to meet with them.

3) Outcome Training Committee - Chip distributed an updated project outline and reported that plans are moving ahead for offering outcome training to WIBs, Regional Partnership and other local organizations in partnership with the Agency of Human Services. As described at previous meetings the model would be to use CCV to coordinate curriculum, registrations and space for a program that would enroll several teams from a region, each with a specific project that they could work on in a series of half a dozen classes spread over several months. There is an interest from several higher ed institutions in providing interns to work with these teams as part of their studies. The next meeting of the planning group is scheduled for March 2.

4) Review of the WIA Vision/Mission as first step for the State Plan - Pat McDonald reported that DOL has asked the States to develop new two year State Plans for the use of WIA funds because the new legislation has not passed and when it does it will not take effect for at least a year. Pat has asked that the staff working on the Plan (which includes Chip) do so in light of a vision and mission that will be developed and shared with the HRIC. This will provide some basic concepts that should guide the drafting of all parts of the plan.

5) Report on Meetings with Speaker of the House and Lieutenant Governor - Tom and Chip reported on these two successful meetings. Speaker Symington stated that she was aware of the HRIC re-authorization legislation and would support its passage. She was particularly concerned by the wage gap information that we provided and suggested that we include this as part of the package with

our Challenge Statement. Joe Stoltz joined us for the discussion with Lieutenant Governor Dubie who also participated as a panelist at the HRIC meeting later that afternoon in Room 11 of the Statehouse. He was interested in the effects of the changing economy on the average Vermont worker and expressed a willingness to support our efforts. It was suggested by a member of the Executive Committee that we explore the possibility of having Lieutenant Governor Racine join us for a meeting with the Governor to discuss the Challenge Statement.